Remarks

Status of the Claims

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Claims 1-4, 6-34, and 36-62 are pending in the application. All claims stand rejected. By this paper, claims 1, 31, 32, and 46 have been amended, and claims 3, 4, 11-13, 34-35, and 41-43 have been canceled without prejudice. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is patentably distinct and in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections/Rejections

Claim 31 was objected to due to an antecedency problem. Applicant has amended the claim to remove the offending language.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 14, 15, 22, and 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis et al. in view of Brodsky. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view of Brodsky and further in view of Dodson et al. ("Dodson"). Claims 9, 11-13, 21, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31-33, 36-45, 51-54 and 56-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view of Brodsky and further in view of Wu et al. ("Wu"). Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view Brodsky in view of Wu and in further view of Dodson. Claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view of Brodsky in view of the "Encyclopedia Britannica Online" article and in further view of Mighdoll et al. ("Mighdoll"). Claims 24, 25 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view of

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Reese. Claims 46-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view Brodsky in view of Wu and in further view of Mighdoll. Claims 55 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis in view of Brodsky in view of Wu and further in view of Reese.

Interview |

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Beliveau for the courtesy of the interview on July 20, 2006, wherein Applicant agreed to amend the claims of the above-identified application to be consistent with the amendments discussed with Examiners Beliveau and Saltarelli in Appl. No. 09/748,080. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 31 to recite that the method/system allows for querying for supplemental content "without requiring the creation of a database associating supplemental content with programming times." This amendment was made in Appl. No. 09/748,080 to avoid the Voyticky reference (U.S. 6,637,028). It was agreed that, because Voyticky requires the creation of a database linking supplemental information with programming times, adding the limitation "without requiring the creation of a database associating supplemental content with programming times" to each of the pending independent claims was sufficient to overcome Voyticky, along with the other cited references.

Wu shares the same deficiencies as Voyticky. In Wu, the system looks at what channel is being viewed and what time the channel is being viewed. These parameters are then compared with stored tables of such information to find a match. See col. 10, lines 22-36; FIG. 9B. Thus, Wu requires the creation of a database

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associating supplemental content with programming times, contrary to the claim limitations.

Applicant has also amended claims 1 and 31 to recite that the system/method receives a user request to find supplemental content, wherein the user request is received in response to a user activating a specifically-designated button on a remote control device for the interactive television system and, without further user input, retrieves the pre-cached supplemental content for display by the interactive television system. In App. No. 09/748,080, it was agreed that, because Brodsky requires a user to select from a menu of recently stored key words in order to send a request for supplemental content, adding the limitation reciting that the steps subsequent to pushing the remote control button are performed "without further user input" to each of the pending independent claims was sufficient to overcome Brodsky, along with the other cited references.

Conclusion

Claims 1 and 31, as amended, are therefore patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination. Each of the remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from these claims and are likewise patentably distinct for at least the same reasons. Because all claims are in condition for allowance, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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